

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 38 was objected to because “(Original)” should have read “(Currently amended)”. Claim 38 is amended to read “(Previously presented)”, and the objection is traversed.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-12, 14-16, 26, 28-36 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Parikh et al. in view of Assignee’s published application 2004/0013255 to Williams et al. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Parikh et al. teach a call management system (CMS), the CMS 110, that is a physical network termination having a plurality of voice cards 133 that terminate trunk(s) or line(s) connections to the PSTN 134. Calls are directed to the CMS 110 using direct inward dial (DID) numbers (FIG. 3 and Col 5, lines 1-10). As previously explained, the CMS 110 does not park calls, it answers the calls and “places the caller on hold” (Col. 7, lines 36-37) while a SMS message is sent to the subscriber’s mobile telephone (Col. 7, lines 37-48).

Parikh et al. teach a fundamentally different approach to the problem solved by the instant invention, in which physically terminated calls to service subscribers are all processed in exactly the same way, i.e.: a SMS message containing a menu of options is sent to the caller to request instructions (FIG. 4) unless the subscriber’s Caller ID is not available (FIG. 5). If the Caller ID is not available and the caller refuses to key in his telephone number but speaks his name, the subscriber is called to deliver the caller name (156, FIG. 5). All calls receive the same default call treatment (162, FIG.6), which is “Handset Off” default call handling, i.e. transferring the call to voicemail (Col. 8, lines 53-58). Responses received after a default elapsed time (late responses) are ignored, unless “voicemail with cavedrop” for a call transferred to the internal voice mail system has been selected (Col. 9, lines 1-9).

Williams et al. teach a method and system for local call discrimination in which calls to service facilities are interrupted at the local calling area level to determine the service resource required and/or the availability of the service resource to which the call should be directed before the call is extended across the network and consumes valuable network resources unnecessarily. Williams et al. neither teach nor suggest anything associated with subscriber control of inbound calls.

With respect to claims 1 and 26, although claims 1 and 26 clearly distinguished over the teachings of Parikh et al. for all of the reasons set forth in the last response filed, claims 1 and 26 are further amended to include the limitation that the called number is used in a query to retrieve a service subscriber profile that stores default information about how calls to that service subscriber are to be handled. Neither Parikh et al. nor Williams et al. teach or suggest the use of a subscriber profile to determine how calls to individual subscribers are to be handled. The use of the subscriber profile provides call handling efficiencies and call handling personalization that is not enabled by any combination of Parikh et al. and Williams et al.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that on a fair interpretation of the limitations of amended claims 1 and 26, neither claim 1 nor 26 is obvious in view of, Parikh et al. and Williams et al.

The rejection of claims 1 and 26 is thereby traversed

With regards to claim 3 and 28, with respect the arguments presented in the Office Action are not at all clear. Claims 3 and 28 claim a method of routing a call to the CSN when local number portability is used to direct subscriber calls to the CSN. No similar method is taught or suggested by Parikh et al. or Williams et al. The rejection of claims 3 and 28 is thereby traversed.

With respect to claims 4 and 29, as explained above in detail neither Parikh et al. nor Williams et al. teach or suggest the use of a subscriber profile. The Office Action takes the position that the response received from the subscriber in response to the presentation of a menu of options constitutes a "subscriber profile". However, this is

neither a correct nor a fair interpretation of the teachings of Parikh et al. As explained above in detail, Parikh et al. apply the same default call processing to all subscribers, and Williams et al. do not address the issue at all.

Claim 4 is cancelled, and the rejection of claim 4 is traversed.

Claim 29 is amended to describe one embodiment of the content of the subscriber profile, which is neither taught nor suggested by Parikh et al. or Williams et al. The rejection of claim 29 is thereby traversed.

Regarding claims 5 and 30, with respect the arguments presented by the Office Action do not make sense. Claims 5 and 30 relate to examining a service subscriber profile. As explained above in detail, neither Parikh et al. nor Williams et al. teach or suggest the use of the service subscriber profile. The Office Action equates examining the service subscriber profile with examining a CLID passed to the CMS (Parikh et al., Col. 5, lines 12-16). This is neither a fair nor a supportable interpretation of the teachings of Parikh et al. The rejection of claims 5 and 30 is thereby traversed.

Regarding claims 6-7 and 33-33, with respect the method cannot be practiced using any combination of Parikh et al. and Williams et al. Parikh et al. can only process subscriber calls after they are terminated and put on hold. Contrary to the position taken by the Office Action, Parikh et al. do not “forward calls to an announcement player”. Parikh et al. teach that the calling party is completely ignored unless CLID cannot be extracted from the inbound call. In that case the on-hold calling party is asked to input their phone number or say their name (Col 8, lines 1-11). This is a completely different approach to calling party treatment than that claimed in claims 6-7 and 32-33. Williams et al. teach nothing that would remedy this deficiency. Consequently, the rejection of claims 6-7 and 32-33 is traversed.

With regard to claims 8-9, the arguments presented by the Office Action are, with all due respect, simply incorrect. Parikh et al. use an internal voice mail application 128 to permit “voice mail eavesdropping”. A trunk monitor is neither taught or suggested, and could not be used in any event in the system taught by Parikh et al because

call control would be lost. Williams et al. teach nothing to overcome this shortcoming. The rejection of claims 8 and 9 is thereby traversed.

Regarding claims 10 and 34, as explained above in detail, Parikh et al. neither teach nor suggest a service subscriber profile, much less searching the service subscriber profile to determine whether the calling party number is associated with a specific voice mail box. Nor does Parikh et al. teach or suggest forwarding the call to an announcement player. Williams et al. teach nothing to overcome these shortcomings. The rejection of claims 10 and 34 is thereby traversed.

Regarding claims 11 and 35, contrary to the position taken by the Office Action it is clear to any person skilled in the art that neither Parikh et al. nor Williams et al. teach inserting a subscriber telephone number associated with the voice mail box in a redirecting number field of the call initiation message, if the subscriber telephone number associated with the voice mail box is different from the dialed telephone number in the original called number field of the call initiation message. The rejection of claims 11 and 35 is thereby traversed.

Regarding claim 12, as explained above in detail neither Parikh et al. nor Williams et al. teach or suggest the use of a subscriber profile, much less a default call treatment option specified in the service subscriber profile that is used when a reply from the service subscriber is not received in a specified time period. The rejection of claim 12 is thereby traversed.

Regarding claim 14, for reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 12, the rejection of claim 14 is traversed.

Regarding claim 15, neither Parikh et al. nor Williams et al. teach or suggest reconnecting the call to a service-subscriber-selected one of a plurality of telephone numbers specified in the service subscriber profile. The rejection of claim 15 is thereby traversed.

Regarding claims 16 and 38, with due respect the position taken by the Office Action is not understood. As explained by Parikh et al. (Col. 4, lines 31-37) if the

subscriber requests a callback number, the call management system requests the callback number but the subscriber must use it to call the calling party back at some later time. This teaches directly away from the claimed invention. Williams et al. teach nothing to remedy this deficiency. The rejection of claims 16 and 38 is thereby traversed.

Regarding claim 31, as explained above in detail neither Parikh et al. nor Williams et al. teach or suggest a subscriber profile, much less a subscriber profile that stores a "plurality of directory numbers". The rejection of claim 31 is thereby traversed.

Regarding claim 36, as explained above in detail neither Parikh et al. nor Williams et al. teach or suggest a service subscriber profile. Parikh et al. fail to teach or suggest forwarding the call to a service subscriber specified directory number if the response is not timely received (Parikh et al., Col. 8, line 52 – Col. 9, line 9). Williams et al. teach nothing that remedies this deficiency. The rejection of claim 36 is thereby traversed.

Regarding claims 2 and 27, in spite of the position taken by the Office Action, it is well understood by those skilled in the art that a HLR is not used for local number portability. Neither Parikh et al. nor Williams et al. teach or suggest using LNP to route calls to a CSN to effect service subscriber inbound call control. As acknowledged by the Office Action, Williams '801 teaches a method for LNP that eliminates the high costs and time delays associated with queries to a remote database, which teaches directly away from the claimed invention. The rejection of claims 2 and 27 is thereby traversed.

With regard to claims 13 and 37, the rejection is traversed for all of the reasons set forth above.

Claims 5 and 12 have been amended to correct dependency in view of the incorporation of claim 4 into claim 1.

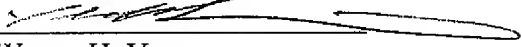
Claim 29 has been amended to incorporate a part of the subject matter of that claim in claim 26.

Claims 33 and 34 are amended to correct minor typographical errors.

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Reply to Office Action of April 28, 2008

In view of the amendments made to the above-noted claims, and for reasons set forth above in detail, this application is now considered to be in a condition for immediate allowance. Favorable reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,
L. LLOYD WILLIAMS et al.

By 
Wayne H. Yan
Registration No. 44,485
Agent for Applicant

Date: July 28, 2008

Address: Ogilvy Renault LLP
Suite 1600
1981 McGill College Avenue
Montreal, Quebec H3A 2Y3
Canada

Email: wyan@ogilvyrenault.com
Phone: (613) 780-8682
Fax: (613) 230-6706

Canada K1P 1A4
Telephone: 819-780-8661